

17 July 2019



NICHOLAS
CHAMBERLAINE
SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers

School vision: culture, environment and curriculum at Nicholas Chamberlaine

At the close of the year we would like to thank you all for your support.

Next year heralds an exciting chapter in the history of Nicholas Chamberlaine and we are excited that your sons and daughters will be at the centre of the story. As you will know we are undergoing considerable cultural, environmental and curricula change. For example we are moving into the new £26 million campus from November and we are combining this with our a new vision for the school;

- Placing a special emphasis on facilities, teaching and student experiences in a STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Maths) curriculum;
 - In so doing we are seeking to unlock the regional and national potential employment opportunities for the school community
- We are equipping young people with the knowledge and experiences they will need as adults in the 21st century: we recognise the importance of the arts, creativity, environmental responsibility;
 - research indicates the positive impact of creativity on achievement, personal growth and mental health
 - ensuring we provide all students continuing with a challenging and rewarding creative or problem solving GCSE course throughout their KS4 curriculum from September 2020.
 - initiating the our unique Encore music project: all or our year 7 students to learn to play an orchestra musical instrument and this exciting creative project to culminate in a community performance at the first Bedworth Proms in July 2020
 - Develop a progressive, knowledge rich curriculum which is fully aligned with this vision; to enable young people to be the best they can be on their journey to becoming experts over their time with us
- student leadership to inform our shared, aspirational environment: our tutor groups, houses and student leadership team are working to rename our campus buildings after inspirational people in the STEAM fields
- involving students practically in eco projects including solar panels, woodland and grassland planting and the removal of single use plastics
- revolutionising the curriculum in Design and Technology to align with 21st Century and society's needs for creative problem solvers
- enriching the knowledge understood by our students in PE lessons in Year 7 and Year through offering Sports Science
- explicitly teaching the development of character and values through organised days during the year to support personal growth, development and world understanding
- the reintroduction of work experience in year 10 and the expansion of work experience in year 12
- a focus on activities and projects which will enable us to achieve the Platinum Arts Mark by September 2020
- routines around school to help us develop kindness, respectfulness and enrich our civilised and warm culture

- KS3 Great Student Training leading to a graduation for students who show they are ready to start KS4 and their GCSEs
- Studying a knowledge rich curriculum, based on scientific research of how the brain learns and develops

To promote a culture of high standards, aspirations and achievement we will be moving year groups around the site. Each form group will be co-located near the other forms in their year, the Head of Year and link Senior Leader. This will support improved communication, equality, a traditional sense of family and to raise standards. Tutors and Heads of Year will specialise in the support appropriate for the students in that year. From September the Head of Year and Senior Leaders will be arranged as follows;

Year	Head of Year	Senior Leader
7	Mrs Flounders	Mr Smith (Assistant Head)
8	Mrs Coupland	Mrs Turner (Assistant Head)
9	Mrs Morgan	Mr Merrell (Deputy Head)
10	Mrs Shaw	Mr Hunton (Deputy Head)
11	Mrs Darley	Mr Williams (Associate Assistant Head)
12/13	Mrs Bayliss	Mrs Bayliss (Assistant Head)

Our Heads of Year 8 and 9 will rotate each year. This is designed to provide students with consistent support during this important time and their big milestones such as transition from KS3 to 4 and the GCSE preferences process. The same will occur for Head of Year 10 and 11 to support 6th Form Choices and the GCSE experience.

From November 2019 years 7, 8 and 11 will have their tutor bases in West block and 9, 10 and 11 will be in the new building. In the interim, years 9-11 will be across the site. All rooms will be renamed based on the subjects taught in those rooms. Your child is likely to have a new member of staff as a tutor and will already have been told if this is the case. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions and we will be glad to help.

Term dates

The new school term begins on **Wednesday 4 September 2019** for students in Years **7, 11 and the Sixth Form**. Those in Years **8, 9 and 10** will return on **Thursday 5 September 2019**. All students must be on school premises before 8:45am and in their tutor rooms to begin their learning at 8:50am. Please make sure they are extra early in order to find their new tutor rooms if this is appropriate.

Relationships, routines and responses: raising standards and helping learners

To ensure young people feel confident and develop good study habits we will focus on simple routines in September around the school. Our new Year 7s have already demonstrated exemplary

conduct on their induction day when given simple routines that will enhance their learning. Routines will allow all students to know exactly what is expected of them and remove any unnecessary anxiety, freeing student to be more content and confident and therefore successful in their learning

In September it is important that we get these simple things right and we would appreciate your support. All students will be taught these routines and expectations in the first week of the new term. As part of this training in high standards we will also demonstrate simple accepted responses for individuals in a learning community. If young people can do this then they will develop mature and constructive relationships that will remove anxiety, promote tolerance and encourage confidence.

Community, calmness, consistency: Uniform and equipment

Attached to this letter is the simple version of the uniform and equipment expectations (the full list is on our website). We appreciate that uniform items are expensive and we wish to avoid any unnecessary costs. The document gives clear indication about appropriate footwear, trousers and skirts. If you have any issues then please check with the school before purchasing any items.

Attendance, aspirations, achievement

We expect all students to be on site before 8.45am and in their tutor rooms by 8:50am each day ready to learn. Lateness will result in an after school sanction unless there is a reasonable reason, this will be at the discretion of the school.

We also expect each child to move purposefully from one lesson to the next, ensuring they are on time and ready to learn. We are grateful for your support, explaining to your child that each teacher has carefully planned every lesson and to arrive to these late is both disrespectful to their efforts, but also selfish as the disruption disturbs the learning of others. We must show kindness and respectfulness to each other at every opportunity.

It is absolutely vital that students attend school every day. Every school's expectation is that students should have an attendance rate of 97% or above. Less than this has been proven to seriously impact your child's learning and his or her subsequent achievements. Students must only be kept off school in cases of severe sickness. Minor ailments such as a headaches, colds or a sore throats must be treated with medication and students sent into school. Should your child's symptoms worsen then our very experienced staff will determine whether they should be sent home.

A polite reminder that your child is legally entitled to 195 days of learning per year leaving families with 170 days to enjoy family experiences. Therefore holidays in term time are not allowed and under Local Authority guidelines we will issue fixed penalty notices unless we deem the circumstances to be exceptional. This decision over exceptional circumstances lies with the Head, Dr Newman.

Digital distractions: mobile phones

We accept that mobile phones are now part of everyday life, especially for children and young adults. However the use of technology can and does easily lead to potential bullying and breaches of rights of others (i.e. filming without permission), as well as disrupting and distracting from learning. The use of mobile phones can also lead to discrimination for those students who do not have data or internet enabled devices and therefore is not suitable in most cases. In exceptional circumstances

and only for learning purposes, staff may give a student permission to use a phone to record and play back a musical piece or work from a photo, for example in Art.

To help your child to understand Nicholas Chamberlaine's simple expectations please go through the following revised policy with them;

- The use of mobile phones during the school day is not allowed
- Phones must be turned off and put away between the hours of 8.45am and 3.10pm.

- Phones must be out of sight in an internal blazer pocket or school bags between those hours.
- If a phone, the outline of a phone or headphones are visible then the phone (and headphones) will be confiscated by a member of staff and placed at reception.
- If this occurs;
 - First time in a term the phone will be returned to your child (we understand that mistakes can occur)
 - Second time in a term the phone will be placed in the school safe and returned after 7 days which will therefore always go across a weekend. This is to deter disregard of the rules as the second time is considered deliberate. The phone will only be returned to a parent.
 - A third occurrence is deliberate defiance and the phone will be put into the school safe until the end of the half term, returned only to the parent.
 - And your child does not hand over the phone immediately when asked, then the sanction is increased to the next level, i.e. first time sanction automatically becomes the second time sanction.
- There will be a reset of sanctions each term. We appreciate your support with our goal of calm, focused students and high achievement.

Being respectful and individuals' responses

It is important that as a school community we are all respectful to each other. This includes students, parents, visitors and staff. We expect and insist that we are all kind to each other and students follow instructions given by the staff first time. It is vital to show good conduct in lessons and around school so that everyone can learn and make excellent progress. We are very grateful to you for reiterating this important message.

Aspirations and extra curricular

We have been very pleased to see so many young people taking part in educational visits and other opportunities as part of our Wide Horizons programmes. Our staff have led visits to the Science Museum in London, Carding Mill Valley and visits to Birmingham and Keele Universities amongst many others. We have also been very fortunate to host the National Youth Orchestra and Youth Opera Society and performed our own children's opera. We have many more opportunities planned for the new academic year. We encourage all of our students to become involved in as many different activities as possible. To help with this we will be hosting an Extra Curricular Activities (ECA) Fair in September for them to see all of the opportunities on offer. ECAs will help your child to form new mature and constructive relationships with other students and staff which will benefit their learning.

We hope that all of our students and their families have a very restful and safe summer and we look forward to seeing your sons and daughters back at Nicholas Chamberlaine in September refreshed and ready to learn.

Kind regards,



Dr L Newman
Head